

FISCAL NOTE

SB 3597 – HB 3376

January 28, 2008

SUMMARY OF BILL: Combines the Registry of Election Finance and the Tennessee Ethics Commission into the “Ethics and Campaign Finance Registry.” The current executive director of the Registry shall become the executive director of the Ethics and Campaign Finance Registry and current staff of the Tennessee Ethics Commission shall continue to serve under the executive director of the newly created commission.

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:

Increase State Expenditures – \$25,000 One-Time

Decrease State Expenditures - \$5,500 Recurring

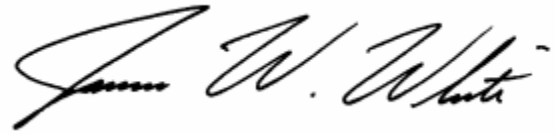
Assumptions:

- No positions will be eliminated due to the merger of the Registry of Election Finance and the Tennessee Ethics Commission.
- No salaries will be changed due to the merger.
- One or both agencies may be required to move locations since current office space of either agency may be insufficient for a merged staff. Estimated one-time moving cost of \$15,000 to merge the two offices.
- The Ethics Commission’s lease expired on December 28, 2007. The Commission is currently on a month-to-month lease. This estimate assumes that the two offices will be physically combined into one larger office. The increase in cost for the larger office cannot be determined since it is not known where such office will be housed or the square footage cost of the new office space. It is assumed that any increase in cost for new office space will be offset by the savings from the elimination of office space to house the Ethics Commission.
- This estimate assumes a one-time cost of \$10,000 which includes name changes to the Internet portal for lobbyist registration, printing costs to reflect name changes for the on-line payment of credit card fees and printing new disclosure of interest statements to reflect the Commission change of name and address.

- Training the Registry of Election Finance Commission on ethics law is estimated to be not significant and can be done with existing resources.
- A decrease in state expenditures of \$5,500 due to the elimination of the Ethics Commission members who will no longer be required to meet.

CERTIFICATION:

This is to duly certify that the information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "James W. White". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "James" written in a smaller, more compact script than the last name "White".

James W. White, Executive Director

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